Samadhan Kendras are conceived as Village Information Centres for providing locally relevant content and information to the Villagers on topics such as agricultural practices, health status of communities educational opportunities, government schemes, and employment opportunities.

(2) Community Information Centre (CIC)

With a view to accelerating the socio-economic development of the community in hilly areas of difficult geographical terrain having poor infrastructural and communication facilities in the North-East region of the country, a scheme was approved for providing connectivity by setting up Community Information Centres (CICs) at all the block headquarters in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim.

A pilot project was launched in August, 2000 at an estimated cost of Rs. 15 crores by setting up 30 CICs in the aforesaid States at sites selected by the State Government. These systems are being used by the community mainly for browsing the Internet and utilising the E-mail facilities. The school and college children are also using these facilities extensively. Based on the experience gained with existing CICs there is a proposal to set up another 457 CICs at the remaining block headquarters of these States. The project cost is to the tune of Rs. 220 crores which is under SFC approval.

Employment Opportunities

†565. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that availability of employment opportunities in the country had been less as compared to its requirement from 1993-94 to 1999-2000;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard;

(c) the annual rate of increase in the number of unemployed persons in the country during the above said period; and

(d) the annual rate of availability of employment opportunities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) On the basis of surveys carried out by the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

National Sample Survey Organisation during 1993-94 and 1999-2000, it is estimated that the average annual rate of growth of employment was of the order of 0.98 per cent and the average annual labour force growth was about 1.03 percent as per Usual Prinicipal and Subsidiary Status Approach. The unemployment rate was of the order of 1.90 per cent during 1993-94 and about 2.23 per cent during 1999-2000.

Setting up of MEPs and IOWF for Indian workers abroad

566. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Central Manpower Export Promotion Council (MEPC) and an Indian Overseas Workers fund for watching the Well being of Indian workers abroad; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The proposal to set up a Central manpower Export Promotion council and Indian Overseas Workers Welfare Fund is under consideration of the Government.

Employment to unorganised labours

†567. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the areas identified to provide employment to unorganized labours and the percentage of these labours out of the total task force;

(b) the details of the latest position of labour employed in the infrastructural facility sector alongwith the measures being taken by Government for their welfare; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a)Around 92 per cent of the total work force is in the unorganized sector. Agriculture and allied activities, food processing, small scale industries, service sector, travel and tourism, information technology, housing and real

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